(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Demand of Private Telecom Operators

1457. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Access Deficit Charge regime, supposed to provide support for rural telecom is fraught with regulatory, legal and procedural short-comings;

(b) whether the Universal Service Fund, operational from 2002, is adequate to provide support for the rural telecom expansion;

(c) whether the private telecom operators are opposing the ADC regime and demanding its abolition; and

(d) if so, Government's views thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Some of the private operators have filed a petition in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) raising procedural issues.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Access Deficit Charge regime should continue at present.

Malfunctioning of Exchanges in BSNL areas

1458. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints of malfunctioning of the exchanges in BSNL areas whereby local calls of 3 minute duration get snapped after 10-20 seconds due to technical fault;

(b) if so, whether the local customer entitled to get 3 minute talk time